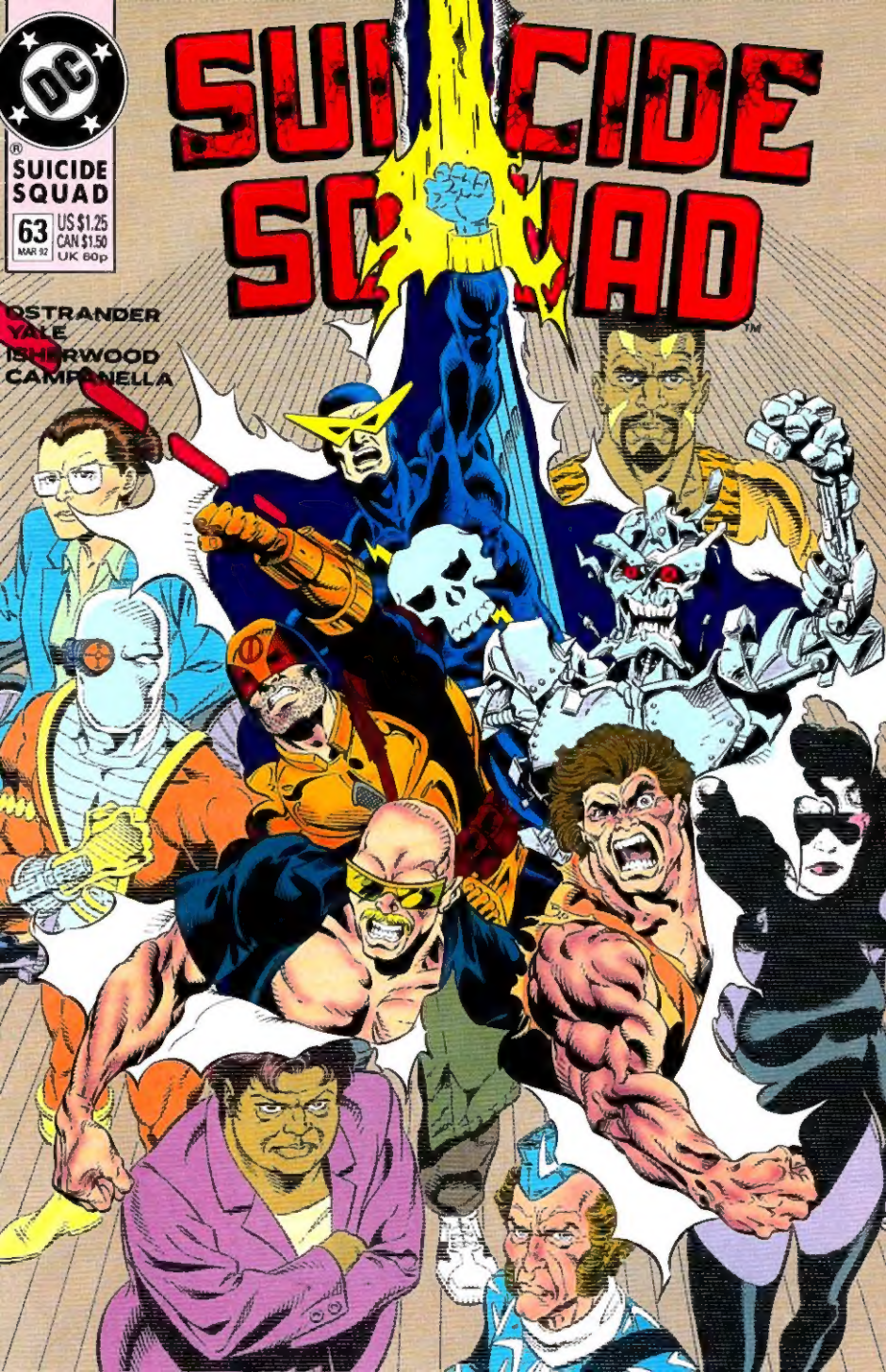
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MY TURN, MY TURN!
SEZ WHO?
YOU OUT AFTER CURFEW, HOMBRE! GUEDHE GOT RULES ABOUT THAT AND--ACCORDING TO THE RULES--ONE OF US GETS TO KILL YOU!
HE BELONGS TO WHOEVER CAN GET HIM FIRST, I FIGGER!
DOG PILE ON EL CHICO! HA HA HA HA!
BORED BORED BORED. I'M GITTIN' SO BORED BEATIN' UP THESE DAMN PEONS.
TO YOU, BOLT.
KRAKOW!
THANKS, DEADLINE. MIGHTY CONSIDERATE.
LOOK, IT'S EASY WORK, GOOD MONEY, AND WE GET OUR JAIL SENTENCES OVERTURNED, AND ALL PENDING CHARGES DROPPED.
2

ALL WE GOTTA DO IS PROP UP GUEDHE'S GOVERNMENT FOR A SPELL.
YOURS, BLOCKBUSTER.
<FATHER!>
<MARIA! WE MUST GO! YOUR FATHER IS GIVING HIS LIFE THAT YOU MAY HAVE A CHANCE TO ESCAPE! DO NOT MAKE HIS SACRIFICE A WASTE! REMEMBER THE MISSION!>
<I... KNOW, RAMON. WE GO!>
YEAH. WE'RE A REG'LAR SUICIDE SQUAD!
MY TURN AT BAT NOW, GENTS!
HAW! TRIPLE BAGGER, AT LEAST.
I THINK I HEARD SOMETHING GIVE ON THE OLD COOT ON THAT ONE, BOYS!
KRAK!

MINE!
WHOMP!
NICE "BUMP," SUDDEN DEATH.

AND NOW-- THE COOP DE GRASSY.
SHRAPNEL! NO!

WHAROOM

SHRAPNEL, YOU IDIOT! YOU NEARLY GOT THE REST OF US WITH THAT BLAST AS WELL!

SORRY, PAL. GUESS I JUST DON'T KNOW MY OWN STRENGTH!
WOOSIES.

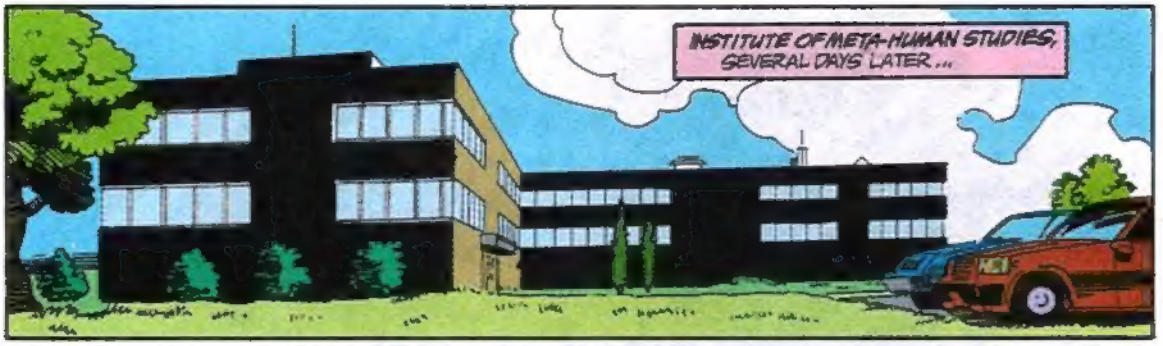
NEARBY...

<REMEMBER, WHEN YOU GET TO FLORIDA, OUR PEOPLE WILL HELP YOU...
<I WILL REMEMBER, RIMON.>

<YOU MUST FIND THIS AMANDA WALLER. WHEN YOU FIND HER, KILL HER. THEN PERHAPS WE WILL BE FREE!>

<I WILL. BUT GET BACK, RIMON! DON'T LET THEM FIND YOU AS WELL!>
<DON'T COME BACK. NEVER COME BACK, MARIA. NOT SO LONG AS DEATH LIVES. STAY SAFE IN AMERICA.>

"I WILL BE BACK, RIMON!"


INSTITUTE OF META-HUMAN STUDIES, SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

I WANTED TO THANK YOU, AMANDA, FOR GETTING THE ASSISTANCE OF THE HAYOTH ON THIS MATTER.
OH, I'M ENJOYING IT, SIMON! COLONEL HACOHEN NEEDS TO LEARN HE CAN'T JUST SCHLEP HIS PEOPLE IN HERE TO PLAY FUN AND GAMES WHENEVER HE WANTS.

"SCHLEP"?
DON'T START.
ANYWAY, WE OWE YOU A LOT.

WE OWE SOMETHING TO WHAT'S LEFT OF THE GIRL THAT WAS MINDBOGGLER, TOO. I WOULDN'T MIND THE CHANCE TO SQUARE SOME OF IT.

LET'S GET THIS ROAD ON THE SHOW.

AH! FINALLY MRS. WALLER DECIDES--

WELL, WELL-- DR. CALENDAR! YOU EVER HEAR FROM THAT EX-HUSBAND OF YOURS, JOHN ECONOMOS?

HIYA, WALL!. THE RAT'S GOTTEN MARRIED AGAIN BUT NONE OF US EX-WIVES CAN STAND HER, WE GIVE IT SIX MONTHS TOPS.

HE'S MAKING A TON OF MONEY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR BUT WE'RE TRYING TO LURE HIM OVER TO THE INSTITUTE.

MRS. WALLER! I IMAGINE I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR ALL THIS!

HALLO, COLONEL HACOHEN. DON'T THANK ME YET-- WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN YOUR BOY OUT OF THE STATES.

I WAS BEING SARCASTIC! YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS NO RIGHT TO BE HOLDING US AGAINST OUR WILL! THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT...!

HAS CONSENTED TO THIS EXPERIMENT. DON'T BE IN SUCH A HURRY TO GO HOME, COLONEL. YOUR PEOPLE THERE ARE NONE TOO HAPPY ABOUT YOUR RECENT FIASCO.

YOU NOT ONLY LACKED UNITED STATES CONSENT FOR THE LITTLE COVERT ACTION YOU DID ON OUR TERRITORY, YOU DIDN'T GET YOUR PRIME MINISTER'S OKAY, EITHER.

AS IT IS, I'VE HAD TO PULL A FEW STRINGS. ALL OUR TOP SCIENTISTS REALLY WANT A SHOT AT SEEING WHAT MAKES YOUR DYBBUK TICK.

I CONVINCED THEM THAT, IF HE COULD FIX UP IFRIT IN HER BOX OVER THERE, WE'D HAVE SOMETHING PRETTY SIMILAR.

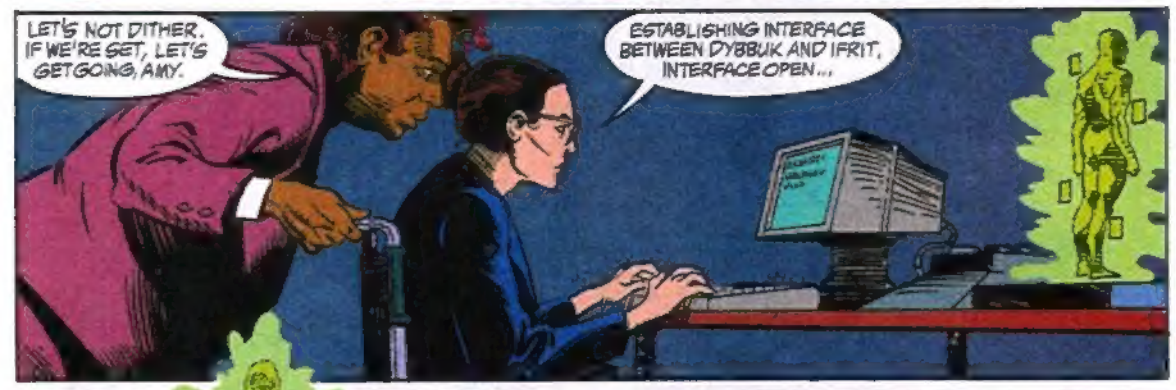
MY, YOU'RE A CUTE LITTLE THING, AREN'T YOU? ARE YOU CLEAR ON WHAT'S BEING ASKED OF YOU?

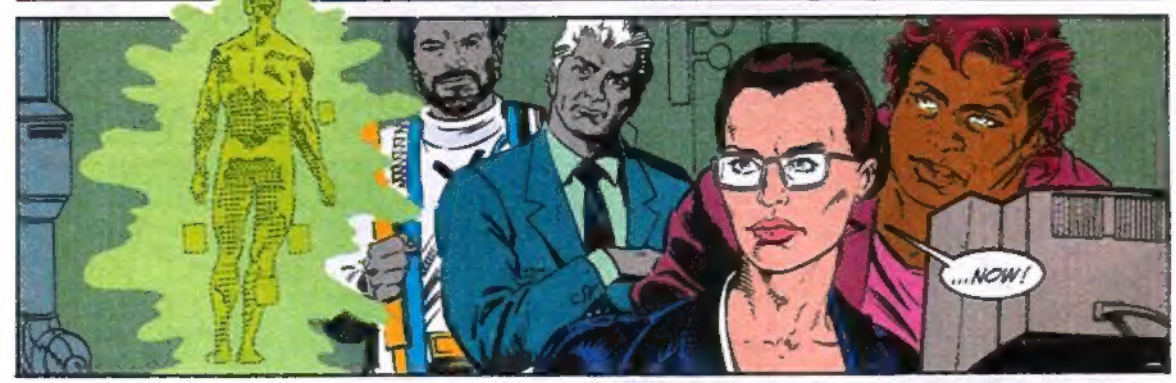
AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE CREATURE IFRIT IS AN ELECTRONIC BEING MUCH LIKE MYSELF, FORMED FROM THE AMNESIAC BRAIN PATTERNS OF A DEAD MEMBER OF THE SUICIDE SQUAD CODE-NAMED MINDBOGGLER.

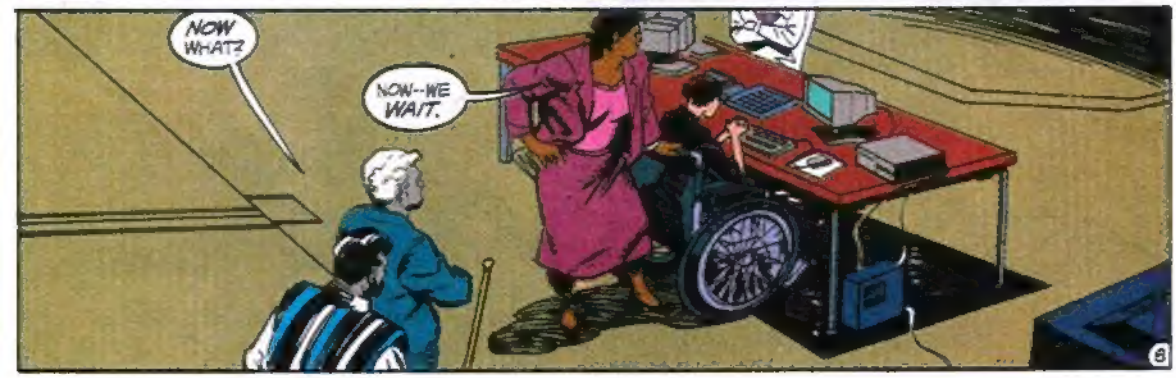
THE IFRIT HAS BEEN PROGRAMMED TO DESTROY THE SQUAD. YOU WISH ME TO ENTER THE IFRIT BANK AND, IF POSSIBLE, RELEASE IFRIT FROM THIS PROGRAMMING.

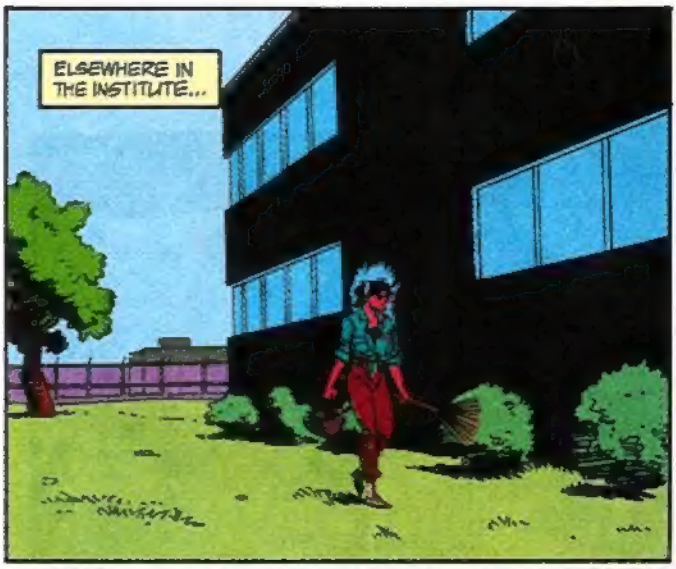
YOU GOT IT.
MRS. WALLER, I STRONGLY PROTEST! DYBBUK IS UNIQUE IN THIS WORLD! TO RISK HIM IN THIS MANNER IS UNCONSCIONABLE! IFRIT WAS A TERRORIST!
WHAT IF SHE CORRUPTS HIM? HAVE YOU THOUGHT WHAT A FUSION BETWEEN THIS IFRIT AND DYBBUK MIGHT BE? HOW DANGEROUS?

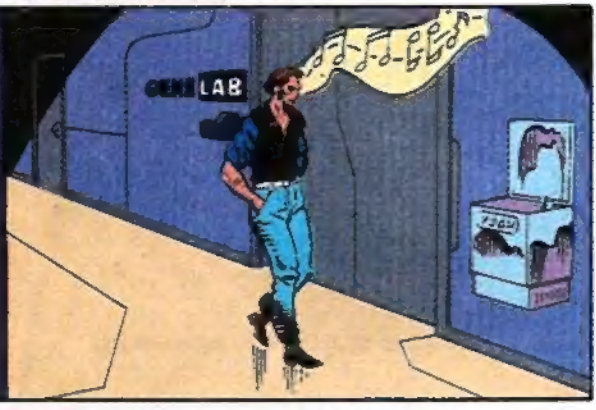
TRULY, DANIEL IS GOING INTO THE LION'S DEN. BUT HE CHOOSES TO ENTER IT. WE MUST TRUST IN THE ALMIGHTY TO PROTECT DYBBUK AS HE DID DANIEL.
YOU'RE NOT HELPING, RAMBAN!


LET'S NOT DITHER. IF WE'RE SET, LET'S GET GOING, AMY.
ESTABLISHING INTERFACE BETWEEN DYBBUK AND IFRIT. INTERFACE OPEN...


...NOW!


NOW WHAT?
NOW--WE WAIT.


ELSEWHERE IN THE INSTITUTE...

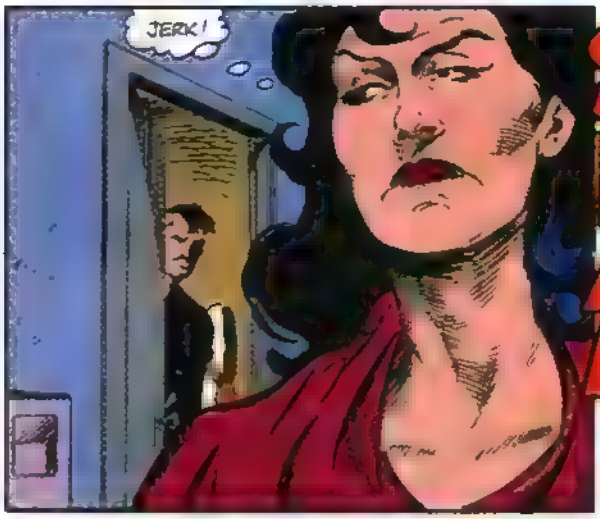

GENE LAB

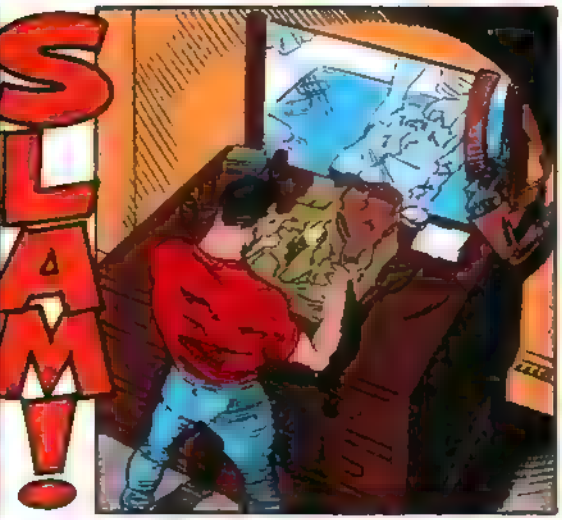
TAKE ME TO WALLER! NOW!
OI!!

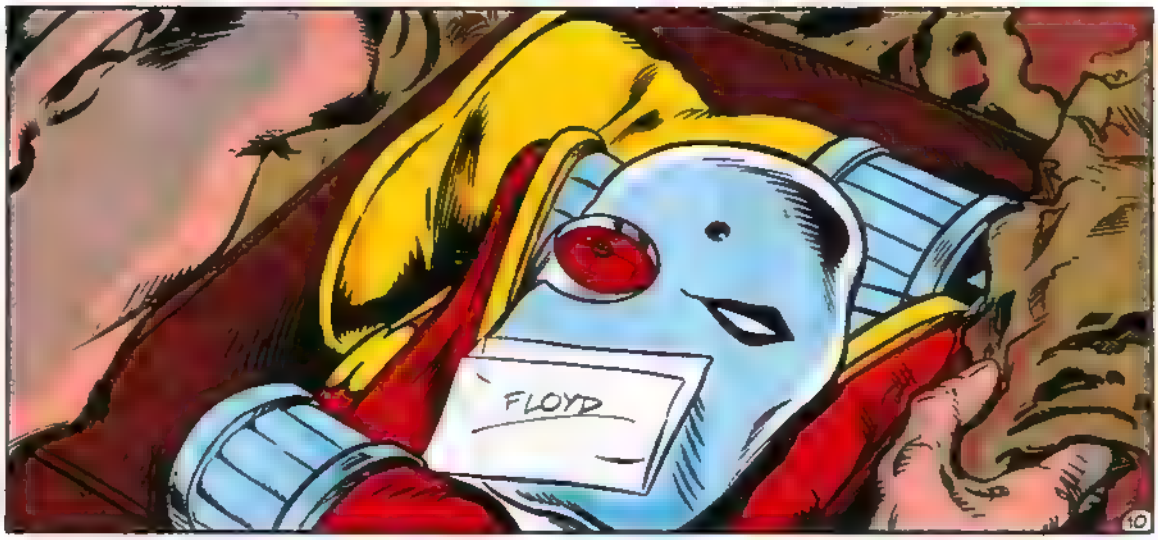
YA WANT TO PUT A HOLE IN THE WALL, SHEILA? NO WORRIES!
RIGHT THIS WAY!

LAWTON! HAVE YOU SEEN AMANDA?
NOPE

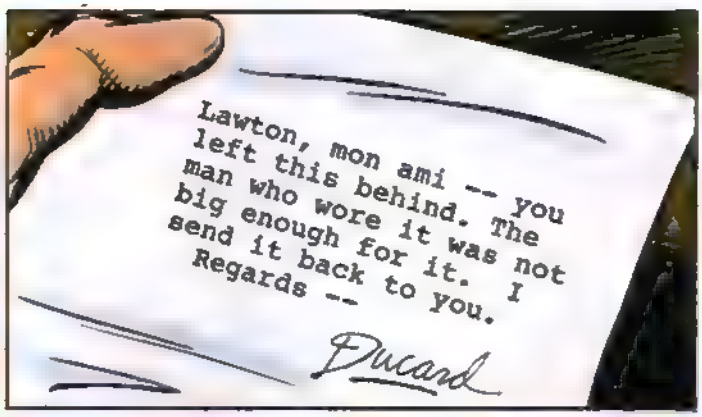
WHAT'S THAT?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.


JERK!

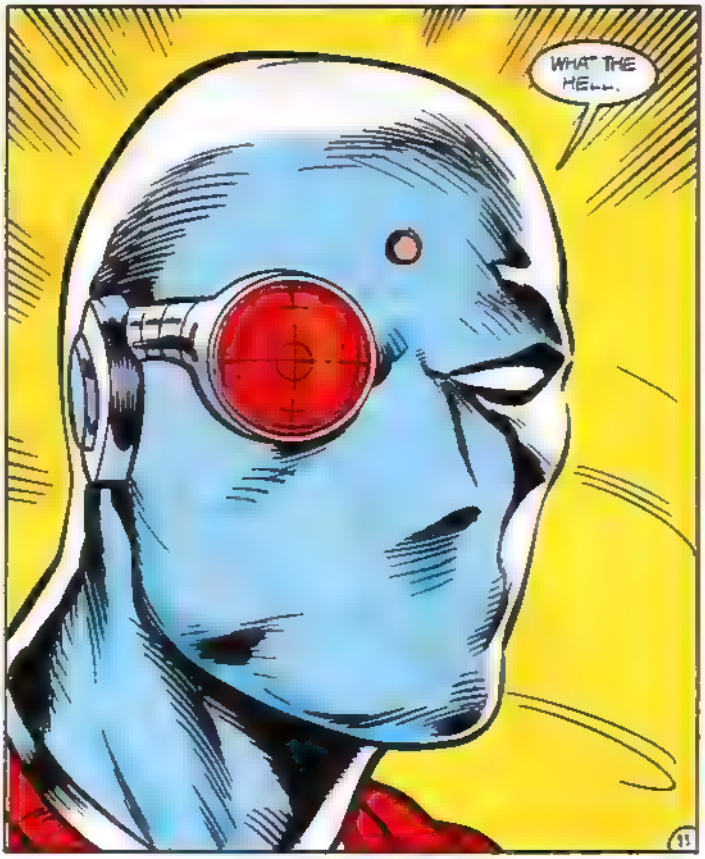

SLAM!


FLOYD

FLOYD


Lawton, mon ami -- you left this behind. The man who wore it was not big enough for it. I send it back to you.
Regards --
Ducard

JUST NO GETTING RID OF YOU, IS THERE?


WHAT THE HE...

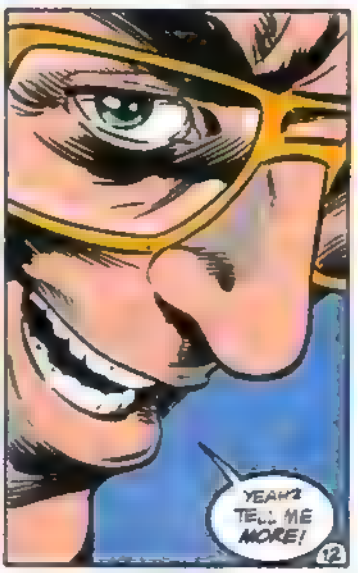
OOOKAAAY, WE'RE IN... TOO EASY, MAN. WHAT SHALL WE DO, WHAT SHALL WE DO? BLIP THAT ACCOUNT, FLAG THAT ONE FOR THE IRS, AND SKIM THESE ACCOUNTS OVER HERE AAAAND... PUT IT ALL INTO THE BANK PRESIDENT'S ACCOUNT. THAT SHOULD BE FUN.

OUTRAGEOUS! I GOT A HACKER TRYING TO INVADE MY SYSTEM--ME?!
I'M GONNA HAVE TO TEACH THIS GOOFA...

YAAAHHGG!

OH, MAAAN--WHO THE HELL IS THAT? ORACLE, IS THAT YOU, YOU WITCH?!

YEAH, WELL--YOU GOT MY ATTENTION. DIDN'T HAVE TO YANK MY FRONTAL LOBES LIKE THAT!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?


YEAH? TELL ME MORE!

ELSEWHERE AT THE INSTITUTE...

<WHAT YOU SUGGEST IS MADNESS!>

<PLEASE, COUNT VERTIGO. YOU MUST RECONSIDER!>

<VLATAVA IS IN A STATE OF CHAOS, A STATE YOU HELPED FOSTER! EVER SINCE THE FALL OF THE OLD REGIME, IT HAS BEEN ANARCHY! NO GOVERNMENT FORMED HAS BEEN ABLE TO HOLD ITSELF TOGETHER FOR MORE THAN SIX WEEKS.>

<RINA--MISS TREVLINKA--IS QUITE CORRECT. OUR PEOPLE DESPERATELY NEED JOBS. OUR WHOLE ECONOMY IS IN A SHAMBLES. OUR FACTORIES ARE HOPELESSLY OBSOLETE.>

<VLATAVA MUST ATTRACT WESTERN INDUSTRY, FOREIGN AID--BUT SO DOES EVERY OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY! UNLESS WE HAVE A DEMOCRACY, A CONSTITUTION AND SOME FORM OF STABLE GOVERNMENT, WE WILL GET NO AID. THIS FACT SEEMS TO HAVE ESCAPED THE MILITARY...!>

<IT IS THE MILITARY THAT HAS KEPT A LEFT-WING DICTATOR FROM REPLACING THE RIGHT-WING DICTATOR! IT IS THE MILITARY THAT REMEMBERS THE OLD TRADITIONS OF VLATAVA, THAT ACTS AS THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS REGARD!>

DO NOT BLAME THIS CRISIS ON THE MILITARY!>

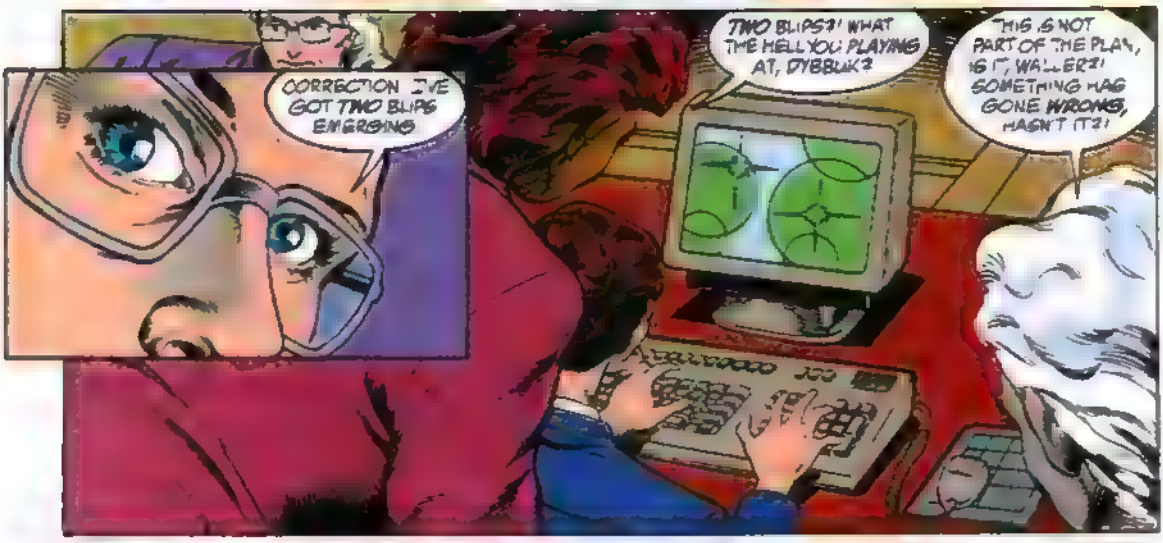
<GENTLEMEN, STOP!>

<THIS IS ONLY THE MILDEST EXAMPLE OF THE WRANGLING THAT AFFLICTS VLATAVA. COUNT VERTIGO. WE NEED SOMETHING THE PEOPLE CAN RALLY AROUND, SOMETHING THAT REPRESENTS STABILITY TO THE PEOPLE, AND THUS, TO THE WORLD.>

<WHICH IS WHY WE ASK YOU, COUNT VERTIGO, TO RETURN TO VLATAVA AS THE HEAD OF STATE UNDER A CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. WILL YOU NOT COME?>

WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO VLATAVA TO HAVE A MADMAN ON THE THRONE? MY ANSWER IS NO.
FORGIVE ME, EXCELLENCY, BUT WE DID SPEAK WITH YOUR PHYSICIAN, WITH DR. LAGRIEVE! HE SAYS THE CHEMICAL IMBALANCE IS NOW GONE! YOU HAVE BEEN CURED...!
WHAT HAS BEEN HEALED IN BODY REMAINS FRACTURED IN SPIRIT. MY OUTLOOK ON LIFE, MY ENTIRE CHARACTER, HAS BEEN SHAPED BY THIS DISEASE. I AM TOLD NO LONGER EXISTS WITHIN ME!
IN TRUTH, I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER I CAN GO ON LIVING
I LOOK AND ALL I SEE ABOUT ME IS CHAOS THAT OVERWHELMS EVERYTHING. ALL THAT WE CALL CIVILIZATION SEEMS TO ME BRITTLE STRUCTURES BUILT OVER AN ABYSS THAT EVENTUALLY CLAIMS EVERYTHING.
THIS AUDIENCE IS AT AN END. I WILL WEIGH YOUR PETITION CAREFULLY AND INFORM YOU OF MY FINAL DECISION--ONCE I HAVE MADE IT. GOOD DAY.
GOD HELP OUR POOR COUNTRY!
GOD HELP THAT POOR MAN!

WELL?! HOW LONG IS THIS GOING TO TAKE?!
AS LONG AS IT TAKES. KEEP YOUR PANTS ON, COLONEL.
AMANDA, I'M GETTING A BLIP! DYBBUK'S RETURNING!


CORRECTION. I'VE GOT TWO BLIPS EMERGING
TWO BLIPS?! WHAT THE HELL YOU PLAYING AT, DYBBUK?
THIS IS NOT PART OF THE PLAN, IS IT, WALLER?! SOMETHING HAS GONE WRONG, HASN'T IT?!

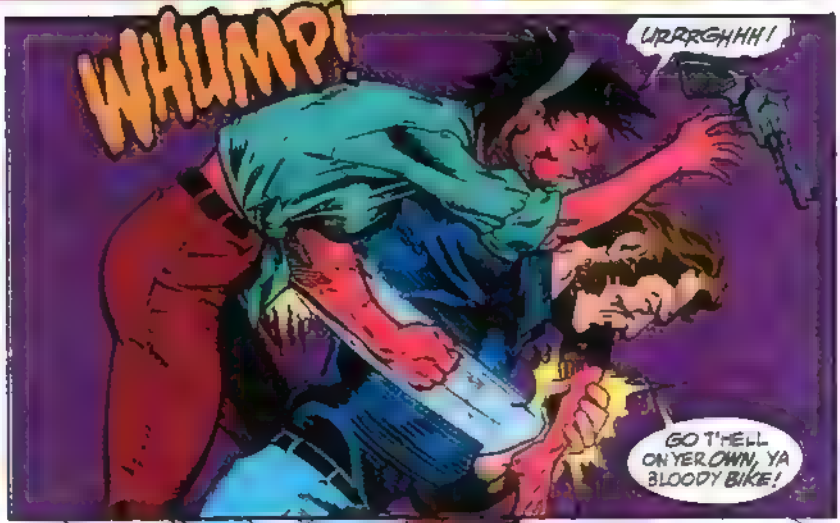
NOT NOW, COLONEL!
YVONNE, STAND BY TO CUT POWER. RAMBAN, MAKE READY WITH THAT SPELL YOU TOLD ME YOU HAD ORACLE, PREPARE TO DUMP THAT PROGRAM. WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL, ALL OF YOU!

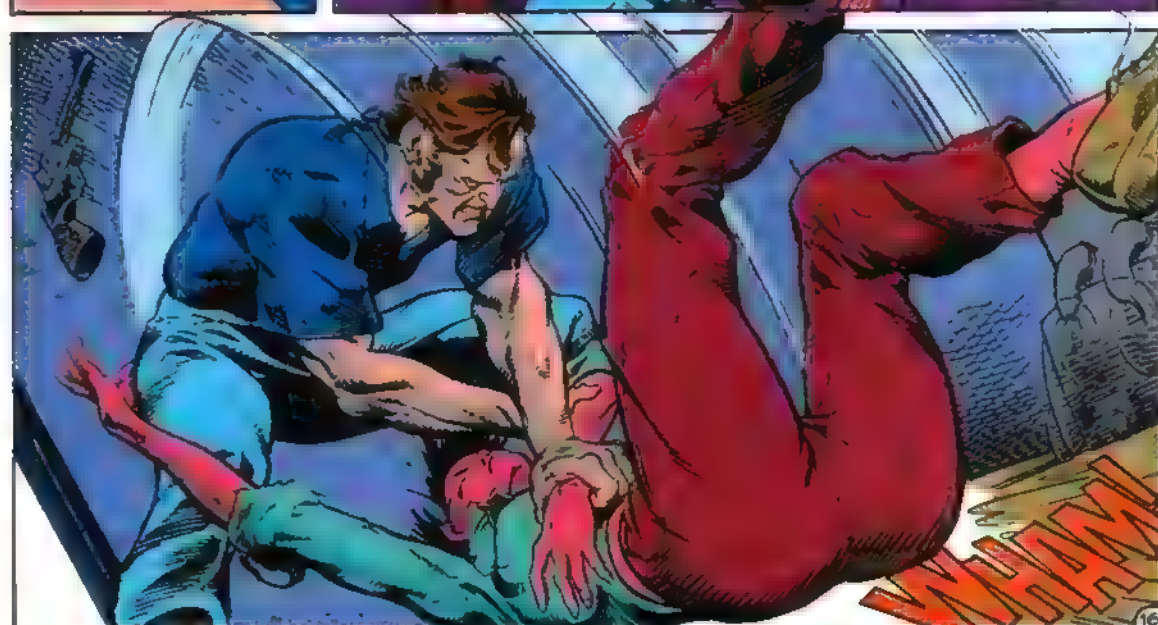
AMANDA WALLER!
IN THE NAME OF THE MARTYRED PEOPLE OF DIABLO VERDE YOU MUST DIE

RAMBAN, YOU GOT ANYTHING UP YOUR SLEEVE?
MAGIC DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY, MRS WALLER! EACH SPELL HAS TO BE PREPARED--!
CAN YOU FAKE IT?

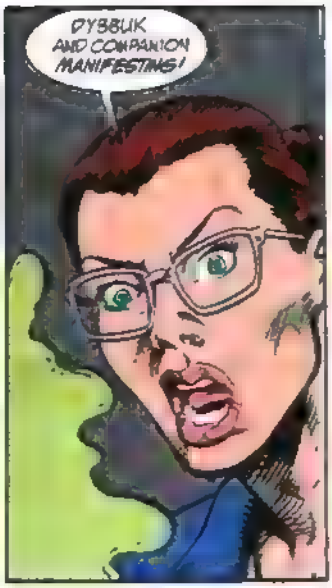
DROP YOUR WEAPON, WOMAN, OR BE PREPARED FOR THE TORMENTS OF HELL! BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH--!

OI!

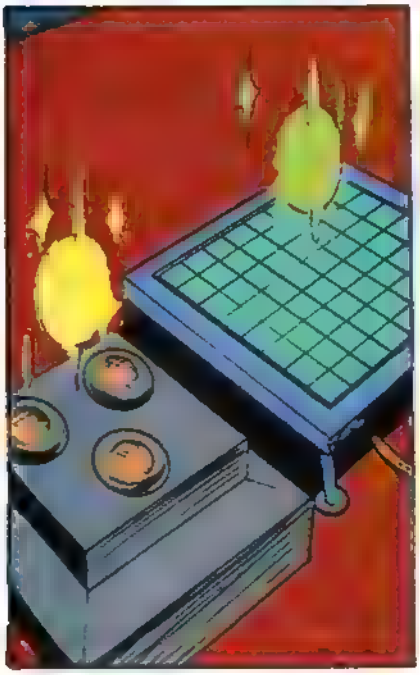

WHUMP!
URRRGHHH!
GO T'HELL ON YER OWN, YA BLOODY BIKE!


WHAM!

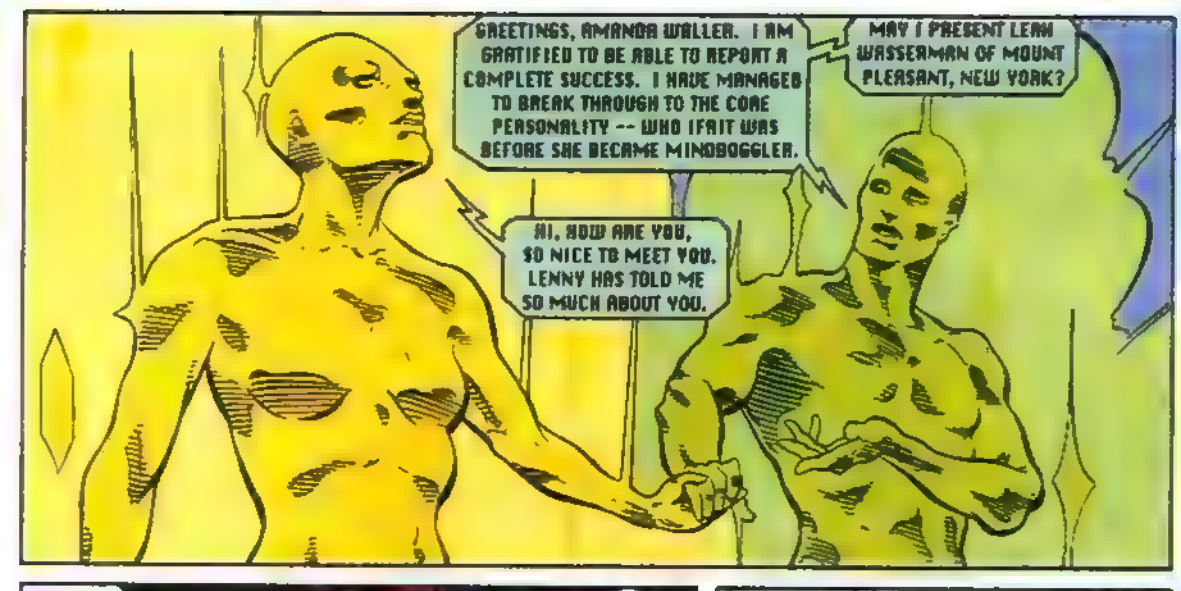
SIT ON HER, ROOMERBUTT! DON'T LET HER GET UP!
"THE HOARY HOSTS OF--" WHAT?!
I READ IT IN A COMIC WHEN I WAS SMALL

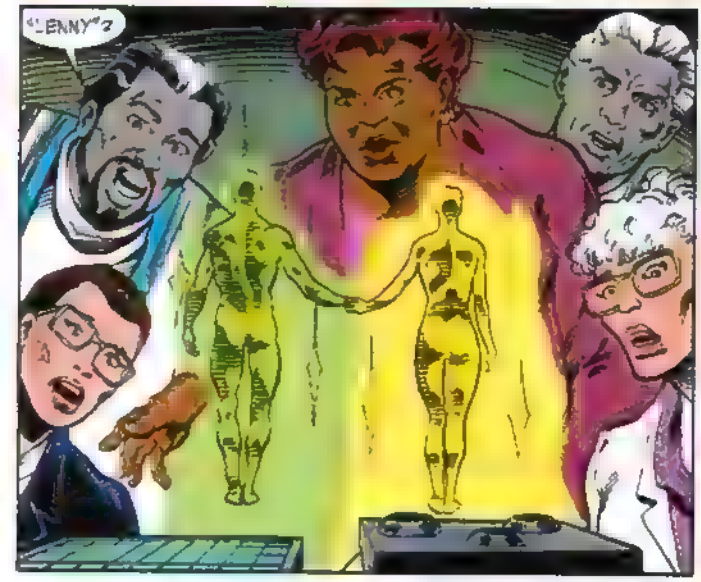

DYBBUK AND COMPANION MANIFESTING!

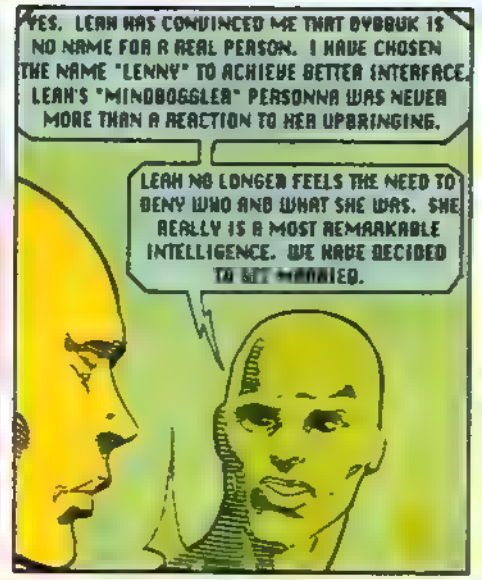
BACK TO YOUR POSITIONS, EVERYONE! NOW!



FASHH!


GREETINGS, AMANDA WALLER. I AM GRATIFIED TO BE ABLE TO REPORT A COMPLETE SUCCESS. I HAVE MANAGED TO BREAK THROUGH TO THE CORE PERSONALITY -- WHO IFAIT WAS BEFORE SHE BECAME MINDBOGGLER.
MAY I PRESENT LEAH WASSERMAN OF MOUNT PLEASANT, NEW YORK?
HI, HOW ARE YOU, SO NICE TO MEET YOU. LENNY HAS TOLD ME SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.


"LENNY"?


YES. LEAH HAS CONVINCED ME THAT DYBBUK IS NO NAME FOR A REAL PERSON. I HAVE CHOSEN THE NAME "LENNY" TO ACHIEVE BETTER INTERFACE. LEAH'S "MINDBOGGLER" PERSONNA WAS NEVER MORE THAN A REACTION TO HER UPBRINGING.
LEAH NO LONGER FEELS THE NEED TO DENY WHO AND WHAT SHE WAS. SHE REALLY IS A MOST REMARKABLE INTELLIGENCE. WE HAVE DECIDED TO GET MARRIED.

"MARRIED"?
GREAT! I LOVE WEDDINGS!
MAYBE WE CAN GET TOGETHER A BRIDAL SHOWER. S THERE ANY SOFTWARE YOU GUYS NEED?
OUT OF THE QUESTION! THERE WILL BE NO MARRIAGE! RAMBAN, TELL HIM!

MAZEL TOV.

YOU'RE NOT HELPING, RAMBAN!

"LET ME NOT TO THE MARRIAGE OF TRUE MINDS ADMIT IMPEDIMENTS."

AND DON'T QUOTE TORAH TO ME!

THAT WASN'T SCRIPTURE, THAT WAS SHAKESPEARE. TORAH SAYS.

I DON'T CARE WHAT IT SAYS! I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!

WHO ARE YOU TO ALLOW OR NOT ALLOW? ARE YOU JENNY'S FATHER? BESIDES, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? SHE SEEMS A NICE JEWISH PROGRAM

YEAH, WELL, WE CAN TALK ABOUT ALL THIS LATER. I GOT SOME MORE IMMEDIATE FISH TO FRY. IF YOU'RE NOT IN THE SQUAD, PLEASE GO AWAY

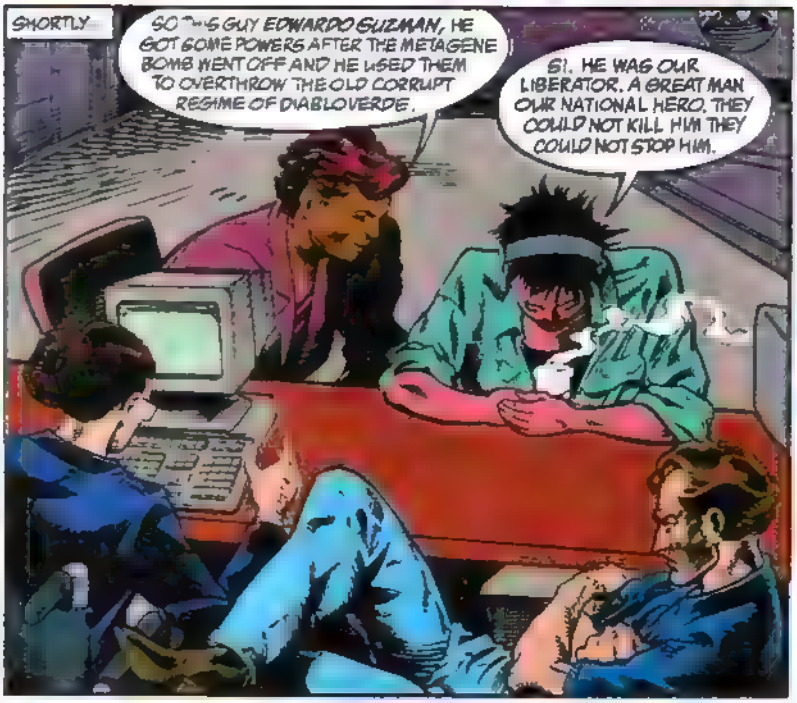
I'VE BEEN SHOT BEFORE, GIRL. I DON'T MUCH CARE FOR IT.

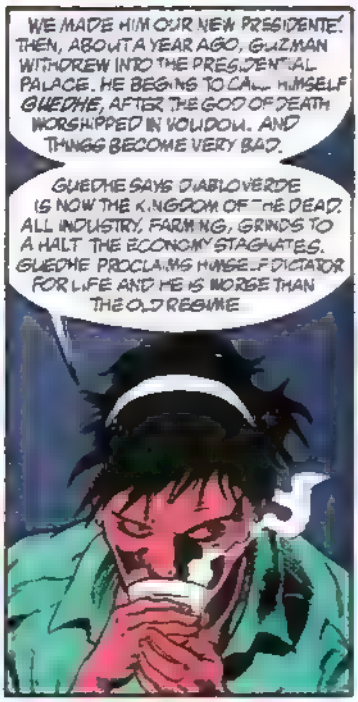
SO--YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN WHAT ALL THIS IS ABOUT? WHAT WAS ALL THAT GIBBERISH ABOUT "THE MARTYRED PEOPLE OF--"?

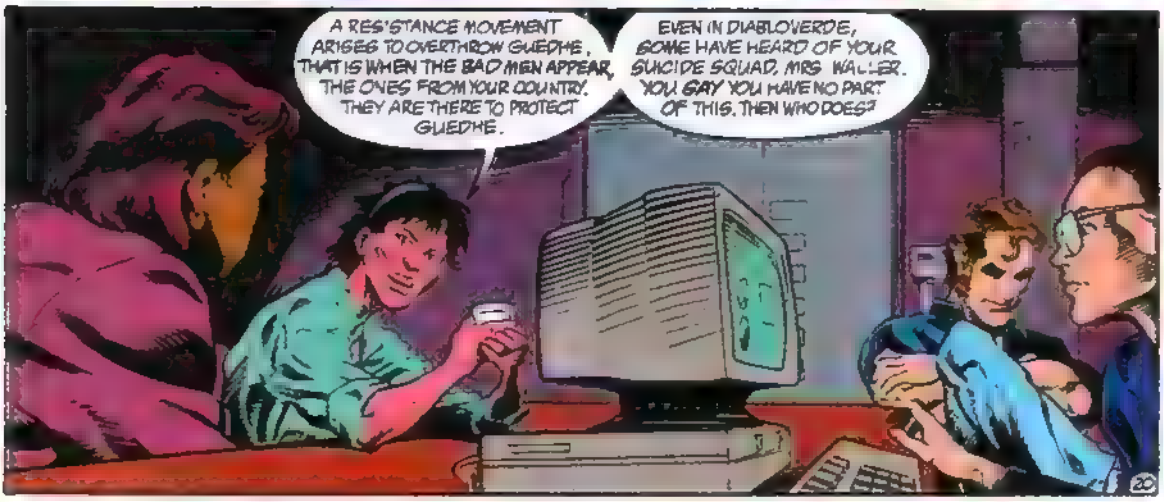
DIABLOVERDE. PRETEND, BUTCHER, THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW OF IT!

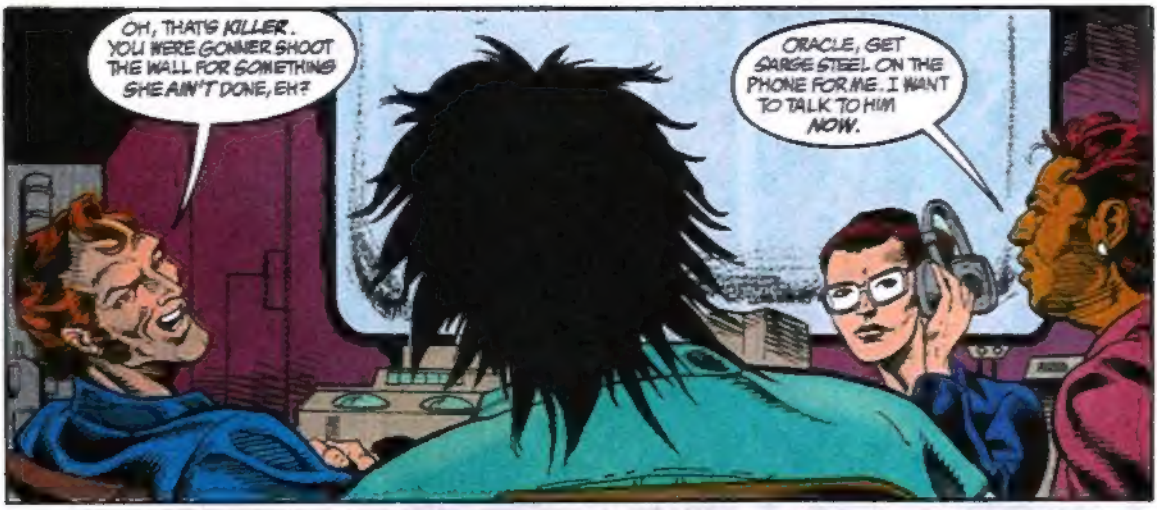
PRETEND YOU HAVE NOT SENT YOUR KILLERS, YOUR SUICIDE SQUAD, DOWN TO RAPE AND PILLAGE MY COUNTRY

GIRL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
BUT I'M GONNA.


SHORTLY...
SO THIS GUY EDWARDO GUZMAN, HE GOT SOME POWERS AFTER THE METAGENE BOMB WENT OFF AND HE USED THEM TO OVERTHROW THE OLD CORRUPT REGIME OF DIABLOVERDE.
SI. HE WAS OUR LIBERATOR. A GREAT MAN OUR NATIONAL HERO. THEY COULD NOT KILL HIM THEY COULD NOT STOP HIM.


WE MADE HIM OUR NEW PRESIDENTE. THEN, ABOUT A YEAR AGO, GUZMAN WITHDREW INTO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. HE BEGINS TO CALL HIMSELF GUEDHE, AFTER THE GOD OF DEATH WORSHIPPED IN VOUDOU. AND THINGS BECOME VERY BAD.
GUEDHE SAYS DIABLOVERDE IS NOW THE KINGDOM OF THE DEAD. ALL INDUSTRY, FARMING, GRINDS TO A HALT THE ECONOMY STAGNATES. GUEDHE PROCLAIMS HIMSELF DICTATOR FOR LIFE AND HE IS WORSE THAN THE OLD REGIME


A RESISTANCE MOVEMENT ARISES TO OVERTHROW GUEDHE. THAT IS WHEN THE BAD MEN APPEAR, THE ONES FROM YOUR COUNTRY. THEY ARE THERE TO PROTECT GUEDHE.
EVEN IN DIABLOVERDE, SOME HAVE HEARD OF YOUR SUICIDE SQUAD, MRS WALLER. YOU SAY YOU HAVE NO PART OF THIS. THEN WHO DOES?


OH, THAT'S KILLER. YOU WERE GONNER SHOOT THE WALL FOR SOMETHING SHE AIN'T DONE, EH?
ORACLE, GET SARGE STEEL ON THE PHONE FOR ME. I WANT TO TALK TO HIM NOW.

THEY'RE CIA, WALLER. GUZMAN MAY BE NOTHING BUT A DICTATOR, BUT HE'S OUR DICTATOR. SO THE POWERS THAT BE DECIDED TO BORROW A PAGE FROM YOUR RULEBOOK.
IT NEVER OCCURRED TO YOU THAT WHEN YOU STARTED THIS KIND OF THING, SOMEONE ELSE WOULD PICK UP ON IT? DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE SO NAIVE THAT YOU NEVER SAW SOMETHING LIKE THIS COMING, WALLER!

YOU GOT ANY MONEY?
WHAT? NO, ONLY A LITTLE. A FEW DOLLARS OF YOUR MONEY, A FEW PESOS--

GIVE ME A PESO.
WHY?

NEXT: DEAD FROM WITHIN!

SUICIDE NOTES

DC COMICS INC.
1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

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SUICIDE SQUAD #63

Ominous issue, eh? Just the way you like 'em.

Congratulations to the Dybbuk family should be sent to this address.

Dear Dan,

First things first. The cover of SUICIDE SQUAD #59 was beautiful! The towering effect that Aquaman, Batman, and Superman projected over the six-inch Atom was very well done, and I loved the expressions on the "big" three's faces. But the panic in The Atom's eyes was the highlight. Geof, Robert, and Tom should take a bow for their work on this cover; it was the best on the stands the week it came out.

Now that the existence of a new Atom has caught the attention of Batman, Superman, and Aquaman, the mystery of Ray Palmer's death, or alleged death, is front and center. Batman is always a welcome guest star in a SUICIDE SQUAD story, but I don't think Superman will fit in as easily and that should be fun to watch. It is the participation of Aquaman that really has me curious, though. His last interaction with the Justice League was, to put it nicely, cool, so his reaction to meeting up with a ragtag group of ex-villains and questionable heroes should be quite a sight. Aquaman has led a rather independent life the last few years, and he seems to have alienated those who used to be his friends, especially his old JLA teammates; however, his pact with Batman and Superman is a firm reminder that even though he no longer associates with them, he still maintains a sense of obligation and friendship and helps them when he can.

Count Vertigo was a central character this issue, also. His cure gives him a new lease on life, and I wouldn't be surprised to see him quit the Squad. I also wouldn't put it past him to hire the Squad to regain his position in his home country. I really hope he doesn't kill Poison Ivy, and doubt he will, but I do think he'll exact some sort of revenge. And as much as I like Ivy as an adversary of Batman's, she does fit in well with the Squad, and a semi-permanent berth on the team would be appre-ciated. The appearance of the Microforce definitely has my interest. I was always intrigued by the Imskian rebellion in the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES, and this Microforce seems somewhat similar. And unless I'm mistaken, wasn't that the Bug-Eyed Bandit in those panels? I love the way John and Kim revive these minor characters. (I was very impressed by last issue's denouement of Karma in the WAR OF THE GODS crossover, by the way. It was long overdue, and I couldn't see Grant Morrison stealing such previous DOOM PATROL subplots after he's revamped the team and the series so creatively.) The scene between Amy/Barbara and Batman was priceless and very well handled. I still miss Batgirl, but I do like the new direction Barbara Gordon has been given. Her admitted anger at not being allowed to know Batman's identity after he learned hers sounded like just the tip of the iceberg as far as her feelings of having her Batgirl identity taken from her. Yes, I know she lost more than that after the Joker's shooting, but, to my knowledge, Barbara has never mentioned the involuntary loss of her Batgirl identity to anyone, and that must weigh on her mind. I think it would be interesting if Killer Moth, who inaugurated Barbara's career as Batgirl, joined the Suicide Squad for a mission, just to see Barbara's reaction. And I'd like to see at least one scene between her and her father to define their relationship nowadays.

John and Kim are doing a great job scripting this series, one that hasn't faltered after nearly five years now. The latest art team is doing a bang-up job, also. I really liked the Batman action scenes. (Was it my imagination, or were the pencils and inks darker when Batman was depicted?) But my favorite scene was Aquaman's emergence from the water onto the pier in Gotham City. It was beautiful and powerful.

Sincerely,
Jim Kelly
29 West Melrose Street
Valley Stream, NY 11580-4503

Jim, that wasn't the Bug-Eyed Bandit but a character called Sting, *a late member of the Microforce.*

* * * * *

Dear Squad,

I enjoyed SUICIDE SQUAD #59 a lot.

Batman went ballistic and the Squad went byzantine.

Moreover, I hope Lawton is done in by the plotters and replaced by a refined shooter from Monaco.

Also, please have Barbara Gordon wear her hair in a more attractive style.

Sincerely,
John Rohlfing
13802 Gunther Street
Garden Grove, CA 92643

As always, thanks for writing, John. I'll see that your requests are passed on to the creators. Incidentally, do you have any requests for Madame Xanadu?

* * * * *

Dear Dan,

I've noticed some disturbing opinions in the lettercol lately, and I wanted to take some time to make my opinion known about the direction the book is taking.

Many readers have had letters printed over the past few months complaining about the "espionage crap," the lack of costumes, et cetera. I'd just like to let John, Kim, and everyone else involved in the creation of SUICIDE SQUAD know that I wholeheartedly support and enjoy the direction that this comic has taken since the Phoenix Gambit storyline.

I wrote a letter some months ago outlining in detail why I thought it's a good idea that the Squad no longer wear costumes, so I won't bother rehashing it here. I'd just like to say that I like the book and why:

This book is different from anything else on the market. If you're looking for typical super-hero teams doing typical super-hero things and saving the world every third issue, then there are plenty of other mags out there for you to read. SUICIDE SQUAD offers real, believable characters. They may not be the most pleasant people in the world (in that regard I must agree with Paul Chin that Amanda can be a trifle sociopathic at times), but the people who make up the team have believable personalities and seem to be real people who operate in the real world. It's a darker side of the world than most of us see, I'll admit, but I would rather see the Squad handling neo-Stalinist Russians, Israeli meta-commandoes, and Quraci terrorists than fighting the Demon Wars any day.

Enough of the general comments, and on to specifics. I like the way Barbara Gordon has been integrated into the team. She's a good character, and I would hate to see her go to

waste. I would guess that Gort is more than a little upset that he was stuck in Cambodia during the attempted coup in the USSR. From his perspective, if he had been there, I'm sure he thinks it would have been more than an *attempted* coup. I'm guessing that he may harbor a bit of a grudge against the people who kept him from getting back to Russia.

"Legerdemain" is shaping up nicely. Just from the first issue of this plotline, I can tell I'm going to like it. It's got all the detail, mystery, and intricate subplots that I enjoy reading.

Finally, I'd like to rescind my suggestion that you kill off Carmichael; he's turning into a good character. Shaw's decision means that we'll be seeing more of him in the future, and I certainly approve of that. Also, I'd like to cast a vote to keep Nightshade around for a while.

Dana Flood
168 A Street
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Thanks for your patronage, Mr. Flood. It's well appreciated.

* * * * *

Dear Dan,

Re: SUICIDE SQUAD #59

What took so long for the famous three to finally investigate Ray Palmer's real disappearance? This new Atom has been around for a few issues (all right, one mission) and they just noticed? Some detective Batman turned out to be. Well, anyway, thanks for starting the process of bringing the original Atom back.

I do like the touch of making Count Vertigo no longer a manic-depressive. I really am on the edge of my seat to see if you will keep him good- or bad-natured.

What really caught my eye was the scene between Barbara Gordon and Batman. This was a nice touch. From Batgirl's first appearance in DETECTIVE COMICS #359, to DETECTIVE #363 when they first blindfolded her, to this. When he offered to take the mask off to show his face I was not really surprised. He would only have shown her what she had already seen but refused to believe back in DETECTIVE #363.

One question before I sign off: What's Boomerang up to besides his usual no good? All right, one *more* question: Is Captain Boomerang going to find out who is impersonating his friend, the late Mirror Master, just as Bats, Supes and Wethead are the Atom? Fair is fair, isn't it?

Christopher Londergan
Dedham, MA

Christopher, if you ask me, I can't imagine ol' Digger Harkness—Captain Boomerang to his fans—spending time and energy to discover who the current Mirror Master is...unless someone paid him, or something. He's just not the sentimental type. You may recall that back in issue #20, Boomerang himself impersonated his late colleague, the original Mirror Master.

And that's fair dinkum, mate.

(Which was supposed to be a clever reply to "Fair is fair, isn't it?".)

* * * * *

Dear Dan,

Well, the crossover-grabbing fanboys got to my copy of SUICIDE SQUAD #58, but if it helped boost the book's audience, I can't really complain. Meanwhile, as I search for that elusive issue, I'm delighted to see issue #59 hitting the stands with a cover that also should insure a few more sales. (Actually, the reason for my preoccupation with sales is based on a number of factors, like the recent cancellations of CAPTAIN ATOM and HAWK & DOVE, and the price hike that has affected this book but no others in the DC range.)

"Legerdemain" looks like it will be another thoroughly enjoyable tale in my favorite team book. So Adam Cray is the son of Senator Cray, huh? Small world. The unlikely alliance between him and Boomer-butt should prove fun. Let's face it: I don't think Lawton really wants to kill Digger; he's just having fun tormenting him. Vertigo I'm not sure about, though...Lawton seems to have a real passion for offing Werner at the moment. I hope a showdown is imminent. I think Werner could easily become the new team leader now that he's cured; he's certainly more stable now than Ben.

As always, the guest stars were handled well, although I would have appreciated a page or two on why Aquaman got involved (other than to promote his new titl...shhh, a cynic). The scene between Batman and Oracle was nice, but come on, don't tell me she doesn't know who's under the cowl! Actually, the whole issue had a nice sense of history and nostalgia about it. I'm sure all DC fans loved the little touches that John and Kim added. I know I did.

Finally, getting back to the subject of sales (sorry to end on a downer, but it has to be said), I really hope that you can keep this book going. If things got real bad, at least don't take the Squad away forever. A move to Quarterly status would be one solution (and actually this is one book that would do well as a Quarterly Giant. You could still tell the continued stories, but all at once rather than spread out over the months).

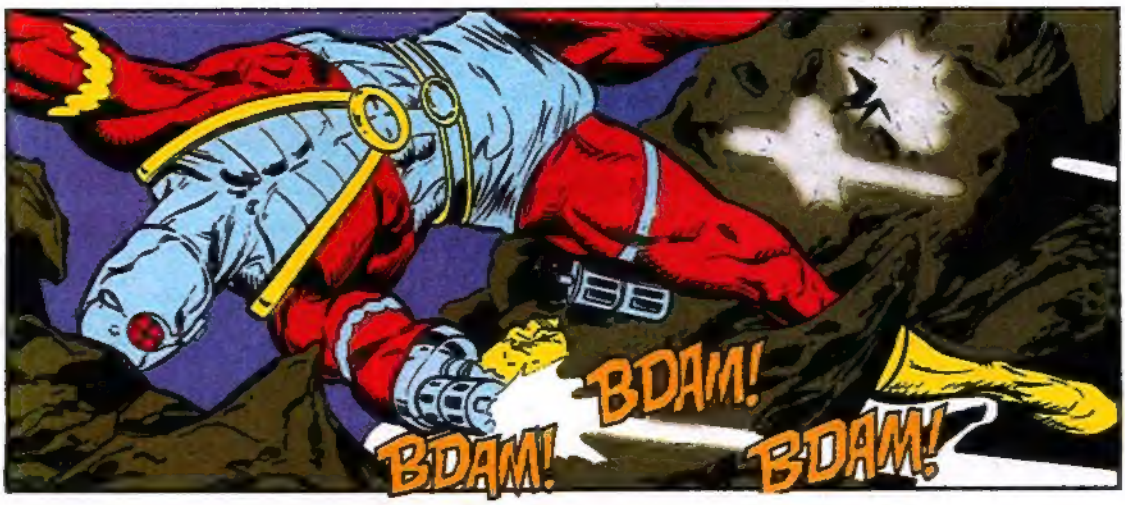
Rock and Roll. Don't turn the music off.

Rol Hirst
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire
ENGLAND

We'll do our best, Rol.

THE NEXT ISSUE BOX WITH NO NAME: In times of trouble, the United States government has been known to send in a secret team of super agents called Task Force X.

Amanda Waller has been under the assumption that *she* was running Task Force X.

Amanda was wrong.

—Dan Raspler
Smaller than life